

**STATEMENT BY MR. KAMALESH SHARMA, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE ON THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ON JANUARY 18, 2002**

Mr. President,

We offer you our warm congratulations on the assumption of the Presidency of the Council by you for this month and wish you success in your work.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate our friends Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and Syria for joining the Council and express our appreciation to Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, Tunisia and Ukraine for their contribution during their term in the Council.

Mr. President,

We commend your initiative in convening this open meeting of the Council on Counter-terrorism, which is the overriding concern of the international community today. Such a meeting is overdue after the catastrophe here of September 11 and the Resolutions immediately adopted both in the Council and the General Assembly, expressing outrage and determination of the world community to extirpate the scourge from our midst.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the anathema of the 21st century. It threatens the civil, peaceful, equitable, democratic and cooperative global order that we wish to see evolve in the world, to grasp the opportunity arising after the polarisation, divisions and surrogate wars of the cold war era. Terrorism is the disorder which undermines this search. Global terrorism has turned its malign attention to many countries across the world for decades, bringing in its wake the pain and waste of wanton murders, human tragedy, mayhem and mindless destruction. The social, political, psychological and physical effects of terrorism are destabilising and immense, as is no doubt intended. Peace, economic progress and development, social harmony and political institution building are disrupted and retarded. Its monstrous working has therefore to be arrested and conclusively defeated by the world community. We know from our experience that open, liberal and democratic societies are particularly vulnerable. The response of the international community to this challenge had till recently been generally disengaged and apathetic and characterised largely by tokenism. Perhaps this was because of a sense of immunity from the worst manifestations of this phenomenon in those societies, without whose political will and determination the struggle against the scourge of terrorism could not become a global reality. Without universal ownership of the fight against terror and shared resolve, the creeping tentacles of terrorism cannot be blunted and destroyed. State victims of terrorism, who have hitherto been facing this challenge on their own, now have the succour of a joint combat against a global evil. For terrorism is a disease which has to be

removed from the world's body entirely before its poison spreads unchecked. In the absence of a collective response, steeled and implacable against this global menace, the results would be predictable: increasingly brazen and outrageous horrors, to which no country or society would be immune, for there is something among the deluded perpetrators of terror which revels in anarchy and carnage.

Mr. President,

The international community responded to the collective challenge created by terrorism and its backers through resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on September 12. The adoption of Resolution 1373 by the Council sent an impliable and unambiguous signal that the world community will admit no space for terrorists or their sponsors: it conveyed the resolve that henceforth there would be zero tolerance for the perpetrators and instigators of terror. The civilized world would no longer permit such acts to be conducted with impunity. India had unreservedly supported Resolution 1373.

The dispatch with which the Council adopted Resolution 1373 and set up the Counter-terrorism Committee under the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom underlines the importance and the urgency with which the international community has decided to combat terrorism collectively and unitedly. The Committee has worked tirelessly and with energy in the short period of its existence to mount a counter-offensive on international terrorism. Sir Jeremy Greenstock has also set an example by holding regular briefings and sharing with the non-members of the Council the Committee's ideas on full implementation of the Resolution. Members of the UN have responded promptly to the Resolution, judged by the number of responses already received by the Committee, unprecedented by UN standards. This reflects the importance the membership attaches to the work of the Committee and the support it enjoys across the board. Above all, it is a tribute to Sir Jeremy's personal drive and commitment, which we would like to commend.

Mr. President,

India has been a victim of state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism for two decades now, with a horrendous toll in tens of thousands. The anguish and suffering caused is beyond audit. We have fought this terror and will continue to do so, with unflinching determination and resolve. We have also gained valuable lessons from this tragic period. It is with this background that we would like to share with you some suggestions which, we hope, will be beneficial to the implementation of the Counter-terrorism Resolution and a more effective response from the Council and the Committee to this grave threat to international peace and security.

We appreciate the work already done by the Committee. The three Sub-Committees will soon engage themselves in the task of examining national reports. We trust that the

Committee will identify inadequacies in domestic legislation as well as its robust implementation and areas for

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further international co-operation. Even as the process continues, focus should be maintained on the groups that are known to perpetrate terrorism and their sponsors. Considerable information about them is already available in the public domain. More information could be sought from affected countries by the Committee adopting a proactive approach. For example, use could be made of the list of terrorist groups and their supporters drawn up by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1267. Similarly, the Council could profitably look at lists of terrorist organisations announced by member countries pursuant to their national anti-terrorist legislations. Reports that accounts are being frozen after allowing the terrorist organizations to withdraw funds or transferring assets in the names of organizations which have not been named in the lists, or banned terrorist organizations mutating into other bodies, need to be looked into critically.

Resolution 1373, which reflects a collective obligation on the international community, affords no justification or excuse to any individual, group, organization or State for perpetrating terrorism. The Council and the Committee, should, therefore, not accept any putative justification or excuse for terrorism. The Council should hold those who offer any such excuses accountable and make an example of them. This would demonstrate that the Council and the Committee mean business.

Resolution 1373, in operative paragraph 2(a), enjoins all States to refrain from providing any support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts. Yet statements continue to emanate that "moral, political and diplomatic support" will continue to be given to what is clearly terrorism. There is nothing moral about supporting terrorism; it is the embodiment of immorality. There is nothing diplomatic either about supporting terrorism; we associate diplomacy with higher ends. Terrorism certainly cannot be the extension of politics by other means. Extension of support to terrorism in any form or in any manner, including moral, political and diplomatic, is in clear contravention of Resolution 1373. Left unchallenged and unaddressed, statements asserting such support and other pseudo-justifications will leave open the Resolution to mischievous and self-serving misrepresentations and misinterpretations, undermining its intent.

Terrorists and their sponsors have become used to empty gestures and rhetoric from the international community for a number of years. They will now be testing the will and resolve of the international community to fully and faithfully implement the counter-terrorism Resolution. In less than three days after the adoption of the Resolution, on 1st October, the Legislative Assembly building in Srinagar in the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir was attacked. Masood Azhar, leader of the terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad, claimed that his group had perpetrated this act. This was

clearly in contravention of Resolution 1373. We are not aware if any action was initiated against this group. Emboldened, Jaish-e-Mohammad and another group of its ilk, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, abhorring liberal democracies and their legislatures as much as their instigators and sponsors do, attacked our Parliament in the capital on 13th December, in an attempt to decimate our political leadership. None of the five terrorists who attacked our Parliament were Indian nationals. While my Government shall take whatever actions it considers necessary to bring to an end terrorist activities directed against India's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, we believe that the existence of, and support to the activities of, terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba after 28 September is in direct and complete contravention of Resolution 1373. The Council and the Committee should quickly examine the need for expeditious and swift collective response against all terrorist acts, wherever and by whomsoever these are committed.

Terrorist groups are not hermetic entities. They need sponsorship, logistical support, financial backing, training facilities and a home. They operate from safe havens where governments and their agencies harbour them, give them the means to plan and carry out their heinous actions and return to their sanctuary. Requiring such governments and their agencies to deny to the terrorists facilities and safe havens and to hand them over promptly to countries where they are wanted for their terrorist activities, would help to bring them to justice, rather than needing to bring justice to them. The Council and the Committee should pay particular attention to the effective implementation of this dimension of the Resolution.

Mr. President,

Resolution 1373 marks a watershed in our common combat against terrorism. In our view, it is a most ambitious and timely undertaking of the Security Council in fulfillment of its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The Council must act swiftly and resolutely to implement the Counter-terrorism Resolution with neither fear nor favour. I compliment the Council on the purposeful start it has made and would like to assure you that the Council and its Committee will have my delegation's full support in their endeavour.

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